



Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Meeting Minutes

Representative Town Meeting

Moderator Kevin Power, Representatives Jean-Claude Ambroise, Joe Baril, Nancy E. Barnhart, Alicia Bauer, Nancy E. Beckwith, Christopher J. Burns, Michael Collins, Nancy M. Congdon, Warren T. Cooper, Syma Ebbin, Peter Fairbank, Nancy E. Gilly, Patrice Granatosky, Dolores Harrell, Keith L. Hedrick, Damon Q. Helme, Lynn Crockett Hubbard, Michael Dean Johnson, Rosanne E. Kotowski, Elizabeth Luck, Jackie Massett, Carole McCarthy, Karen F. Morton, Scott Newsome, Dana C. Parfitt, Richard J. Pasqualini, Jr., Kristen L. Powers, Don Pratt, Betty A. Prochaska, Sandry Ramos-Morales, John F. Scott IV, Jack Sebastian, Dana S. Semeraro, Jennifer Smuts, Joan Steinfeld, Irma Streeter, Mark Svencer, Archie C. Swindell, and Robert A. Warn

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex-Community Room 1

Regular Meeting

A. ROLL CALL

Moderator Kevin Power called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

29 members were present, and a quorum was declared.

The Moderator reported that Reps. Beckwith, Granatosky, Johnson, Warn, Harrell, Sebastian, Helme, Smuts, and Pratt called to say they are unable to attend this meeting.

Members Present: Moderator Power, Rep. Ambroise, Rep. Baril, Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Collins, Rep. Congdon, Rep. Cooper, Rep. Ebbin, Rep. Fairbank, Rep. Gilly, Rep. Hedrick, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Kotowski, Rep. Luck, Rep. Massett, Rep. McCarthy, Rep. Morton, Rep. Parfitt, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Powers, Rep. Prochaska, Rep. Ramos-Morales, Rep. Scott, Rep. Semeraro, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Svencer and Rep. Swindell

Members Absent: Rep. Beckwith, Rep. Burns, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Helme, Rep. Johnson, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Pratt, Rep. Sebastian, Rep. Smuts and Rep. Warn

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.

B. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Members observed a moment of silence followed by the Salute to the Flag led by Rep. Parfitt.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 18, 2010

A motion to adopt the minutes was made by Rep. Scott, seconded by Rep. Hedrick and so voted unanimously.

D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

None.

E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

None.

F. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:

1. Financial report

The Town Manager reported that the Fund Balance is approximately \$8.5 million as of June 30, 2010; the General Contingency balance is \$350,000 with no transfers to date; and the Capital Reserve balance as of August 31, 2010, is \$218,927. He noted that proposed CIP projects will need to be funded on an annual basis.

Rep. Amboise arrived at this time.

2. Monthly briefing

The Town Manager announced that Patrol Officer Greg McCarthy was awarded 2010 Groton Town Police Officer of the Year and JCJ Architecture was awarded a Citation of Excellence Award for the Catherine Kolnaski Magnet School. He highlighted numerous upcoming events throughout the community. Mr. Oefinger noted that layoffs are scheduled for Mohegan Sun, but Electric Boat has cancelled and/or postponed its previously announced layoffs. The Town Manager informed the RTM that the Town Council has scheduled a public workshop for the FYE 2012 budget on October 16, 2010.

2010-0182 Professional Development Account Expenditures

ACCOUNTING OF EXPENDITURES FROM PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT
(5210 - ALL DEPARTMENTS)

Discussed

The Town Manager noted that FYE 2011 budget worksheets pertaining to professional development were sent to RTM members. These departmental worksheets contain figures for the prior year adopted budget, as well as the FYE 2011 requested budget.

G. LIAISON REPORTS

None.

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. FINANCE

a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town

No meeting, no report.

2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES

a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Pratt

No meeting, no report.

3. EDUCATION

a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Swindell

No meeting, no report.

4. RECREATION

a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Warn

No meeting, no report.

5. PUBLIC SAFETY

a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Parfitt

No meeting, no report.

6. PUBLIC WORKS

a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Collins

No meeting, no report.

7. RULES & PROCEDURES

a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Scott

Chairman Scott read the minutes of the meeting held on September 15, 2010. (Minutes are attached.)

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Fairbank, seconded by Rep. Baril and so voted unanimously.

2010-0183 Review of RTM Rule 8.1

REVIEW OF RTM RULE 8.1 PERSONAL INTEREST/CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Discussed

MOTION to change the word "may" to "shall" in the first sentence of RTM Rule 8.1 Personal Interest/Conflict of Interest was made by Rep. Swindell, seconded by Rep. Ambrose.

Moderator Power read Rule 8.1 and discussion ensued.

Reps. Collins, Power, Bauer, Fairbank and Massett voiced their opposition to the change. Clarification of the word "recuse" and a definition of what would constitute a direct conflict of interest would be required to avoid unnecessary limitations.

Reps. Swindell, Morton, and Kowtowski spoke in favor of the change. Conflict of interest in the State Statutes relates to a direct financial interest by an individual or a member of the individual's immediate family. In a CCM canvas of towns in Connecticut, "shall" is typically used in documents regarding disclosure of a possible conflict of interest.

Moderator Power noted that Robert's Rules does address conflict of interest, and the RTM Rules are based on Robert's Rules.

VOTE on Motion failed 7 in Favor, 22 Opposed (In Favor: Reps. Cooper, Gilly, Kotowski, Luck, Morton, Semeraro, and Swindell).

I. OTHER BUSINESS**2010-0181 FYE2012 Budget Discussion****FYE2012 BUDGET DISCUSSION**

Rep. Kowtowski suggested considering pros and cons of across the board cuts and reduction/elimination of some of the services which Groton currently provides. She also noted that it may be helpful for the RTM to see the various budget levels that the Town Manager prepares for the Town Council.

J. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. was made by Moderator Power, seconded by Rep. Svencer and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the RTM*

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant